

ANNEX D

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

I. PURPOSE

Following any type of disaster occurrence, one of the most important tasks to be performed is a complete damage assessment. It is necessary to (1) establish priorities for repair of public facilities and roads, (2) determine if outside assistance is necessary, (3) insure the safety of local residents, and (4) plan mitigation measures that will lessen the effect of future occurrences.

The purpose of this annex is to organize existing personnel of Christian County in such a manner that the assessments can be completed in a timely manner with results that will be consistent with federal and state guidelines.

II SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. SEMA has published guidance for officials to use in identifying and properly assessing the impact of a disaster. The guidance explains what is necessary for acquiring state and federal assistance as well as provides the survey forms that need to be completed (see Incident Management Guide-Response).
2. RSMo, Chapter 49 provides for an emergency volunteer program to be administered by SEMA in the event of a natural disaster (i.e., earthquake), whereby architects, engineers, contractors, etc. may volunteer the use of their services and equipment. These volunteers can assist with demolition, cleanup, and post-disaster safety inspections. This should be done in a safe and effective manor using the S.A.V.E. Coalition (Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation).
3. Disaster assistance comes in varied forms from many different sources.

B. Assumptions

1. Following a major disaster, federal, and state personnel will be available to assist in the final damage estimation.
2. A properly completed Damage Assessment will initiate legislation that can mitigate or lessen the effects of future disasters (i.e., building codes may result after an earthquake has occurred)

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. During the emergency, initial damage assessments will be reported by first responders at the scene of an incident (i.e., law enforcement, fire departments). Other sources such as County/City employees operating in the field and/or private citizens will also report damages. (see Incident Management Guide-Response)
2. The Emergency Management Director will notify SEMA of the developing situation and a determination will be made whether State and/or Federal assistance is needed to support local operations. (see Incident Management Guide-Response.)
3. Immediately after the disaster has ended, the Damage Assessment Coordinator will dispatch teams to the affected areas.
4. Damage Assessment teams will consist of local government employees and designated private sector personnel when necessary (i.e., insurance agents, engineers, contractors, Red Cross, etc.). SEMA may also accompany these teams on the initial damage assessment.
5. The Damage Assessment Coordinator will compile a complete situation report and brief the chief elected officials. The information will also be reported to SEMA. (see Incident Management Guide-Response .)
6. If the necessary response is beyond the capability of the jurisdiction and state government, the Governor may request from the President a disaster declaration for federal assistance.
7. In anticipation of making a request to the President for federal assistance SEMA, in cooperation with FEMA, will conduct a preliminary damage assessment.
8. There will be two damage surveys completed. One will be of individual/private damage (i.e., damage to individuals, residences and small businesses) and the other will be for public (government) losses.
9. When federal/state damage survey teams are working in Christian County, appropriate county/city officials will accompany each team and participate in the survey.
10. If the President denies federal assistance, the cost of recovery would be borne by local and state government.

B. Actions to be Taken by Operating Time Frames

1. Mitigation

- a. Participate in the hazard vulnerability analysis and identify potential hazard zones.
- b. Prepare damage assessment procedures and formats.
- c. Recruit and train Damage Assessment personnel.
- d. Identify and establish liaison with private individuals or companies who could provide assistance in Damage Assessment.
- e. Maintain a file of maps and pre-disaster photos.
- f. Work to pass and enforce building codes that discourage development in hazard-prone areas.
- g. Review the Red Cross damage assessment procedures and guidelines.
- h. Conduct Damage Assessment drills, tests, and exercises.

2. Preparedness

- a. Alert Damage Assessment personnel of potential hazard.
- b. Insure that an adequate amount of maps and damage assessment forms are available.
- c. Review communications plans and procedures.
- d. Identify potential problem areas and report to Direction and Control.
- e. Review the potential hazards' effects.
- f. Maintain increased readiness status until response begins or the situation returns to normal.

3. Response

- a. Activate enough Damage Assessment personnel to survey damaged areas in a timely manner.
- b. Deploy personnel to affected areas.
- c. Collect damage information and indicate damaged areas on maps. Areas damaged in Flood Plains should be noted.
- d. Maintain a list of damaged critical facilities requiring priority repairs.
- e. Develop public information releases on unsafe areas and report these to Direction and Control and the Public Information Officer (PIO).
- f. Assist in documenting emergency work performed.
- g. Prepare damage assessment forms for use in recovery phase.

4. Recovery

- a. Post notices of unsafe buildings and roads.
- b. Assist in establishing priorities for emergency repairs.
- c. Conduct private and public damage assessment.
- d. Advise elected officials on requesting federal and state assistance.
- e. Accompany and assist federal and state damage assessment teams.
- f. Assist in preparing damage repairs reports to receive federal aid.
- g. Participate in recovery activities until the situation returns to normal.
- h. Participate in after-action reports and critiques.
- i. Incorporate changes in plans and procedures.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

A diagram of the Damage Assessment function is shown in Appendix 1 to this annex.

B. Responsibilities

1. The Emergency Management Director has the primary responsibility for the Damage Assessment function in Christian County and acts as the Damage Assessment Coordinator. Damage assessment in each municipality will be the responsibility of the chief elected official or his/her designee. The Damage Assessment Coordinator will:
 - a. Maintain damage assessment procedures consistent with state and federal guidelines.
 - b. Recruit and train personnel in damage assessment procedures.
 - c. Identify and establish liaison with private individuals who can provide assistance in damage assessment (i.e., Red Cross, Insurance agents, engineers, etc.).
 - d. Maintain a file of maps, pre-disaster photos, tax assessments, etc.
 - e. Coordinate with Planning and Zoning on Flood Plain issues regarding reconstruction, building permits, etc.
 - f. Conduct private and public damage assessments.
 - g. Collect/display damage information, brief elected officials and prepare reports.
 - h. Accompany/assist state and federal damage assessment teams.
2. The County Assessor's Office will help assess damage to public and private property (i.e., homes, businesses, etc.).
3. The Christian County Road & Bridge Department, Special Road Districts and Municipal Public Works Departments will assess damage to roads, bridges, culverts, streets, sewers, etc.

4. The Greater Ozarks Chapter of the American Red Cross is trained in damage assessment techniques and can support this function (assess damage to homes, identify victims need for shelter, feeding, etc.).
5. Public and private utility companies will provide damage information concerning respective operations and repair/restore facilities/services in accordance with priority restoration lists.
6. Christian County Planning and Zoning will assist with code enforcement, reconstruction permits and flood plain issues.
7. Each operating department will assess the on-site situation (i.e., number of injured, killed, evacuated, etc.).
8. The Emergency Management Director is responsible for preparing recommendations from damage reports to mitigate the effects of future disasters (i.e., pass/enforce building codes).

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Line of Succession - Christian County Emergency Management Director
 1. Emergency Management Director
 2. County Assessor
 3. Deputy Assessor
- B. The Damage Assessment section will control their operations from the EOC or, if relocated, from an alternate EOC.
- C. Plans should be made to protect essential records vital to the damage assessment function (i.e., tax assessments, property deeds, etc.).

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

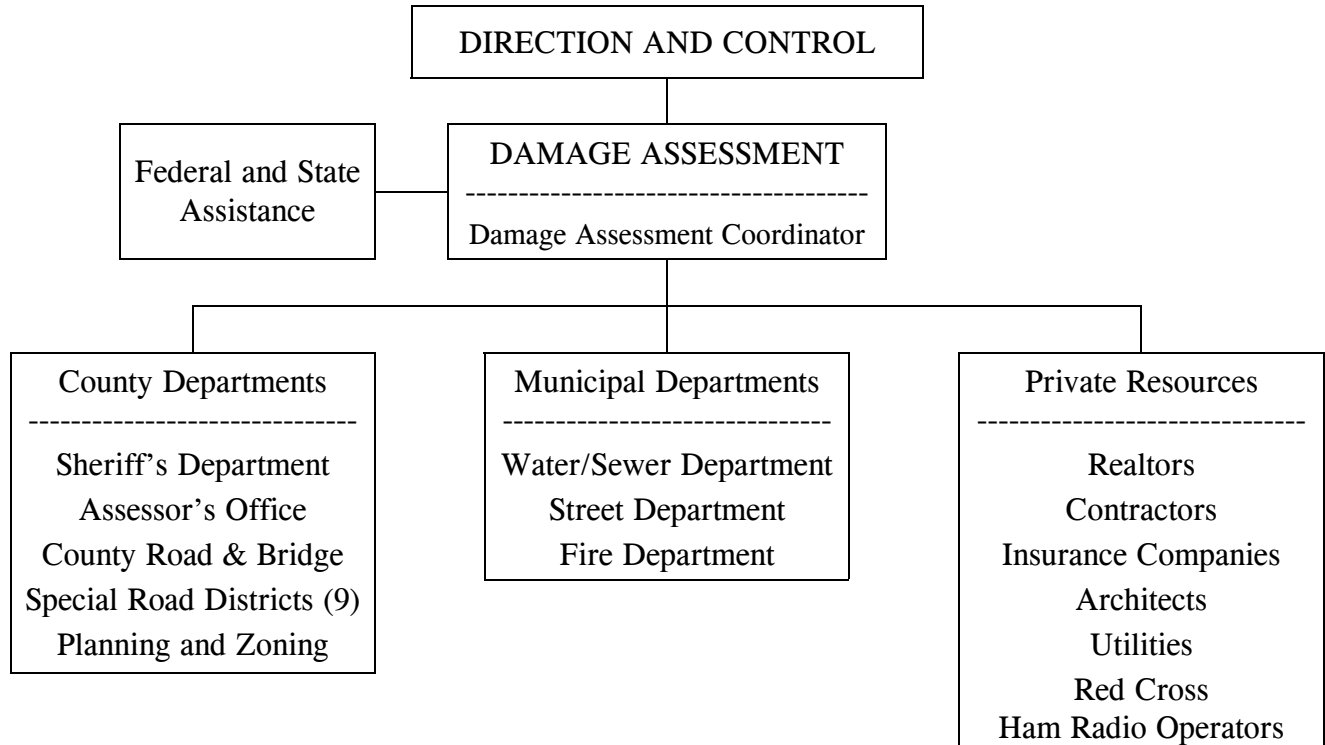
- A. Required damage assessment report forms are referenced in Incident Management Guide-Response. Suggested local report forms are referenced in Incident Management Guide-Response
- B. Records of actions taken and recommendations made will be compiled by appropriate county and/or city personnel in the EOC.
- C. Damage assessment information will be provided to the State Emergency Management Agency for necessary release to the Federal agencies.

- D. Specific logistical requirements will be submitted to the appropriate agency/individual (i.e., communications through Law Enforcement, heavy equipment through Public Works). Other requirements will be submitted to the Resource and Supply section.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Damage Assessment Diagram

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM



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